

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please substitute amended claims 1-24 as follows:

1. (Amended) An image forming system comprising:

an optical sheet having a plurality of sheet members joined such that margins of each pair of adjoining sheet members meet to form a joint line; and

5 a number of image projectors each producing an image or a part of an image and projecting the image or the part of the image to said optical sheet through a projection optical system;

10 wherein when a number of joint lines are formed and the joint lines do not cross each other in said optical sheet, the number of image projectors is equal to or larger than the number of joint lines, and when the joint lines cross each other at a node in said optical sheet, the number of image projectors is equal to or larger than at least a number of nodes, and

wherein said image projectors are positioned such that:

15 (i) when only one node exists within a field in said optical sheet corresponding to the image or the part of the image projected from an image projector, an optical axis of a projection optical system meets the node to fit a normal on a major surface of said optical sheet, and (ii) when no node exists
20 and only one joint line is formed, the optical axis of the projection optical system intersects the joint line at a point and is contained in a plane defined with the normal on the major surface at the point and the joint line.

2. (Amended) The image forming system according to
Claim 1, wherein at least one node is formed by convergence of
four joint lines that are orthogonal to one another in the form
of a cross or three joint lines that are orthogonal to one
5 another in the form of a letter T.

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3. (Amended) The image forming system according to
Claim 1, wherein a plurality of joint lines are formed which are
parallel to one another.

4. (Amended) An image forming system comprising:
an optical sheet having two sheet members joined with
margins of the sheet members meeting to form a joint line, said
sheet members being substantially planar; and

5 a plurality of image projectors each producing a part of an
image and projecting the part of an image to said optical sheet
through a projection optical sheet,

wherein optical axes of said plurality of image projectors
are contained in planes defined by the joint line and a normal on
10 a major surface of said optical sheet.

5. (Amended) An image forming system comprising:
an optical sheet having three or more sheet members joined
such that margins of adjoining sheet members meet to form two or

more mutually parallel joint lines, said sheet members being
5 substantially planar; and

a plurality of image projectors each producing part of an
image and projecting the part of an image to said optical sheet
through a projection optical system,

10 wherein one or more image projectors are opposed to each of
the two or more joint lines, and

wherein said image projectors are positioned so that optical
axes thereof will be contained in planes defined with the
corresponding joint lines and a normal on a major surface of said
optical sheet respectively.

6. (Amended) An image forming system comprising:

an optical sheet having a plurality of sheet members joined
such that margins of adjoining sheet members meet to form
respective joint lines and one or more nodes at each of which
5 joint lines converge, said sheet members being substantially
planar; and

one or more image projectors each producing part of an image
and projecting the part of the image to said optical sheet
through a projection optical system,

10 wherein one image projector corresponds to each of the one
or more nodes, and

wherein an image projector corresponding to a node is
positioned so that an optical axis of a projection optical system

included in the image projector will meet the node while fitting
15 a normal on a major surface of said optical sheet at the node.

7. (Amended) The image forming system according to
Claim 6, further comprising one or more image projectors
corresponding to any points on the joint lines other than the
nodes, wherein the image projectors corresponding to any points
on the joint lines other than the nodes are positioned so that
optical axes of projection optical systems included in the image
projectors will be contained in planes defined with the normal on
the major surface of said optical sheet at the points on the
joint lines, and the joint lines.

8. (Amended) An image forming system comprising:
an optical sheet having a unique portion whose optical
property is unique; and

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an image projector for projecting an image to said optical
5 sheet through a projection optical system,

wherein said image projector is positioned so that a solid
angle formed with rays propagating from the projection optical
system to the unique portion is minimized under a restriction on
a predetermined positional relationship to said optical sheet.

9. (Amended) An optical screen unit having a major surface
on which an image is projected, comprising:

an optical plate having rigidity;

at least one flexible optical sheet arranged over a major
5 surface of said optical plate; and

a close contact means for bringing the major surface of said
optical plate into close contact with a major surface of said
optical sheet.

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10. (Amended) The optical screen unit according to
Claim 9, wherein said optical plate is curved so that the major
surface thereof facing said optical sheet is a convex surface.

11. (Amended) The optical screen unit according to
Claim 10, wherein the convex surface comprises a cylindrical
surface.

12. (Amended) The optical screen unit according to
Claim 10, wherein a maximum magnitude of projection of the convex
surface attained when no stress is applied to said optical plate
ranges from 2 mm to 100 mm.

13. (Amended) The optical screen unit according to
Claim 9, further comprising a tensing means for applying a
tensile force, which is oriented at least along the major surface
of said optical screen unit, to said optical sheet.

14. (Amended) The optical screen unit according to Claim 10, wherein:

said close contact means includes tensing means for applying a tensile force, which is oriented along the major surface of said optical screen unit, to said optical sheet, and means for applying a pressing force, with which said optical sheet is pressed against the convex surface of said optical plate, to said optical sheet; and

said optical sheet to which the tensile force is applied is pressed against the convex surface of said optical plate.

15. (Amended) The optical screen unit according to Claim 14, further comprising a frame member that supports said optical plate, wherein said tensing means includes a resilient member having a first end supported on said frame member and a second end coupled to said optical sheet, to thereby exert the tensile force.

16. (Amended) The optical screen unit according to Claim 15, wherein a plurality of optical sheets are provided and tensed mutually independently by a plurality of resilient members, and tensile forces applied to the respective optical sheets are oriented in a same direction.

17. (Amended) The optical screen unit according to Claim 15, wherein:

a plurality of optical sheets are provided and tensed mutually independently by a plurality of resilient members;

5 a tensile force applied to an optical sheet located farthest from said optical plate among said plurality of optical sheets has a component oriented to approach said optical plate;

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10 a tensile force applied to at least one optical sheet among said plurality of optical sheets except the farthest optical sheet has a component oriented to recede from said optical plate; and

a resultant force of tensile forces applied to said plurality of optical sheets has a component oriented to approach said optical plate.

18. (Amended) The optical screen unit according to Claim 15, wherein the convex surface of said optical plate comprises a cylindrical surface, and said resilient member tenses said optical sheet in a perimetric direction of the cylindrical surface of said optical plate.

19. (Amended) The optical screen unit according to Claim 15, wherein said resilient member tenses said optical sheet in radial directions from a center of the major surface of said optical sheet.

20. (Amended) The optical screen unit according to Claim 15, wherein said tensing means further includes a tensile force adjusting means that enables adjustment of the tensile force exerted by said resilient member.

21. (Amended) The optical screen unit according to Claim 9, wherein:

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5 said optical sheet comprises a plurality of sheet members joined such that margins of adjoining sheet members meet to form respective joint lines; and

at least one of the joint lines is positioned so that an optical axis of a projection optical system included in the image projector, which projects light on said optical screen unit, will intersect the one joint line.

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22. (Amended) The optical screen unit according to Claim 9, wherein:

said optical plate comprises a diffusing plate;

a plurality of optical sheets are provide; and

5 at least two of the optical sheets comprise lenticular lens sheets.

23. (Amended) The optical screen unit according to Claim 22, wherein a side of said diffusing plate to be brought into contact with said lenticular lens sheets is formed as a

diffusing surface, and a side of said diffusing plate opposite to
5 the diffusing surface is processed to become anti-glare.

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24. (Amended) The optical screen unit according to
Claim 22, wherein a side of said diffusing plate to be brought
into contact with said lenticular lens sheets is formed as a
diffusing surface, and a side of said diffusing plate opposite to
5 the diffusing surface is processed to become anti-reflection.